

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIL-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08

INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 /039 R

DRAFTED BY AF/I:LPSLEZAK

APPROVED BY AF/I:WHLEWIS

AF/W:PCHAVEAS

S/I:L:DGOOD (INFO)

AFR/RA:JCARSON (INFO)

-----061072 101718Z /64

R 101540Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY LOME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ELAB, NI, US

SUBJECT: AALC INTEREST IN NIGERIAN PROJECT

REF: (A) LAGOS 5225 (NOTAL) (B) LAGOS 5226 (NOTAL)

1. PAT O'FARRELL, EXECDIR OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LABOR CENTER (AALC) IS INTERESTED IN FOLLOW-UP VISIT TO LAGOS OF AALC REGIONAL REP LOEBARTH (REF. B). O'FARRELL SAYS HE RECEIVED INVITATION FROM OKOGWU TO PAY PERSONAL VISIT FOLLOWING LOEBARTH/BENTUM VISIT. HE STATED THAT BENTUM HAD DISCUSSED POSSIBLE O'FARRELL VISIT WITH BOTH COMMISSIONER ADEFOPE AND OKOGWU WITH COMMISSIONER SUGGESTING DETAILS BE WORKED OUT WITH OKOGWU.

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2. O'FARRELL SAYS VISIT WOULD BE LOW KEY AFFAIR WITH MINISTRY OF LABOUR AS FOCAL POINT. ANY CONTACT WITH SUNMONU WOULD BE THROUGH MINISTRY. AALC INTERESTED AT PRESENT ONLY IN ASSESSING SITUATION AND ESTABLISHING CONTACT. INITIATION OF PROGRAM MUST AWAIT APPOINTMENTS OF NLC SECGEN AND DEPARTMENT HEADS. POSSIBLE AALC INTERIM ACTIVITY WOULD, AT MOST, BE LIMITED TO LOW COST EDUCATIONAL

ASSISTANCE SUCH AS AID WITH ASSEMBLING OF TRADE UNION
REFERENCE AND EDUCATIONAL LIBRARY OR ASSISTANCE WITH ONE
OR TWO GRANTS TO HARVARD TRADE UNION SEMINAR.

3. O'FARRELL HAS APPLIED FOR NIGERIAN VISA WHICH, WHILE PROMISED, HAS NOT YET BEEN GRANTED. O'FARRELL WILL BE IN ABIDJAN MAY 13-20 FOR AALC/OATUU SYMPOSIUM ON EMPLOYMENT AND TRADE. IF VISA IS NOT RECEIVED PRIOR TO DEPARTURE MAY 11 FROM NEW YORK HE MAY SEEK TO OBTAIN VISA IN ABIDJAN. ABIDJAN IS REQUESTED TO PASS ANY COMMENTS WHICH LAGOS MAY WISH TRANSMITTED TO O'FARRELL. O'FARRELL WILL BE AT HOTEL IVOIRE.

4. FOR LAGOS: EMBASSY RELATIONSHIP WITH AALC AT THIS TIME SHOULD BE ONE OF NORMAL FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE. ALTHOUGH LARGEY AID-FUNDED, AALC SEEKS TO MAINTAIN IMAGE OF INDEPENDENT UNION-TO-UNION RELATIONSHIP AND WE DO NOT RPT NOT WISH TO PROMOTE ANY OTHER IMPRESSION.

5. BENJAMIN BENTUM WAS PROMINENT IN GHANAIAN AND PAN-AFRICAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN 1960S AND EARLY 70S. HE IS THE AUTHOR OF "TRADE UNIONS IN CHAINS," A HIGHLY CRITICAL 1966 PUBLICATION DOCUMENTING SUBVERSION OF GHANAIAN AND PAN-AFRICAN LABOR MOVEMENTS BY NKRUMAH WITH AID OF WFTU. BENTUM WAS AT THE TIME SECRETARY GENERAL OF GHANA TUC. FOLLOWING THE 1971 GOVERNMENT DISSOLUTION

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AND SUBSEQUENT REORGANIZATION OF THE GTUC BENTUM WAS HIRED IN 1972 BY THE ILO IN GENEVA. HE LEFT THE ILO ABOUT A YEAR AGO AND HAS SINCE BEEN ACTING AS A CONSULTANT ON A CONTRACT BASIS.

6. FYI: RE NLC SECRETARY-GENERAL:O'FARRELL STATES LEADING CANDIDATES APPEAR TO BE DAVID OJELI, BEN ODOKPORU,KOLA BALOGUN AND ALFONSE OKWESE. O'FARRELL ALSO SAYS HE WAS RECENTLY VISITED BY NYC INTERPOL REP WHO QUESTIONED HIM ON HOW MUCH MONEY AALC PROVIDED FORMER ULC SECGEN CHIEF ODEYEMI IN 1971. O'FARRELL IS OF THE OPINION "SOMEONE" IS OUT TO GET ODEYEMI. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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